

6-1442
12 October 1954

MEMORANDUM RE: Study of Classified Printing by the Staff of the Joint Committee on Printing

1. The undersigned on this date attended a meeting called by the Joint Committee on Printing to consider various problems with respect to classified printing. Representatives of Navy, Justice, GPO, State Department, Air Force, National Security Counsel, Army, and the Committee Staff were present at this meeting.

2. Mr. Paul Beach, Chief Clerk of the Committee, acted as chairman of the meeting. In opening the meeting he stated that this group was to consider (a) whether the classified printing currently produced within the main GPO plant should continue to be handled, or (b) whether it can best be handled elsewhere with respect to security safeguards, economy and efficiency, in a plant operated by the Public Printer in accordance with the policies of the Joint Committee on Printing and the security and printing production requirements of the departments and agencies involved. He further stated that this group was to determine policy with respect to these problems.

3. The representative of each agency present was asked to state where they obtained their classified printing. In answering for CIA, I stated that a certain portion of the Agency's requirements must be supplied by our own facilities because of the sensitive nature of the work, that other Agency classified printing is done by the GPO-State Service plant, and that unclassified work is done by the main GPO plant and the GPO field plant.

4. The GPO representative outlined plans being taken to equip the main plant to handle classified work. He told of partitioning off sections of the composing and press rooms and bindery and securing these areas. He also stated that they are sending Secret and Top Secret jobs to the State Service plant in accordance with that plant's ability to produce the work. It was further stated that the State Service plant can handle about one out of every four such jobs. The GPO representative, in response to questions, stated that material which is classified in categories other than the "Confidential", "Secret", and "Top Secret" classifications is accorded certain treatment by GPO to protect its contents but it is not handled in the same manner as classified Secret and Top Secret work. In response to questions, the GPO representative stated that approximately six percent of the main plant's dollar volume is classified work.

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5. There was a great deal of discussion regarding security regulations and problems and responsibilities connected therewith. It was brought out that certain employees in the main GPO plant are working on classified printing but have never been security cleared in accordance with Executive Order 10450. This provoked quite a discussion and the GPO representative pointed out that the Public Printer had requested approval of the Joint Committee on Printing for the use of funds with which to obtain Civil Service Commission clearance of 500 employees to work on classified printing in the main plant. It was pointed out that the employees working on classified printing have had a name check but have never had the full field investigation required by law. (We have no classified work done in the main GPO plant.) It developed that this request by the PUBLIC Printer was one of the primary reasons for this study by the Committee Staff. The Committee wanted to know if the agencies would patronize the main GPO setup if they authorized the clearance of the employees.

6. Among the problems visualized by the group with respect to the attempt to have classified printing performed by the main GPO plant was that the clearance which the Public Printer would obtain on the employees who would be performing this work would not be satisfactory to various agencies for whom the services would be performed. This brought forth a statement from the Department of Justice representative that CSC investigation would be the only one conducted but that the evaluation of the report of investigation could be given different interpretations by the different agencies and could result in demands for additional clearances by the agencies. As the result of this and similar discussion, I suggested that the group consider the desirability of decentralizing such printing to the various agencies since centralization presents many security problems. While not acted upon at this meeting, this is sure to receive additional consideration as this problem of security clearance is again considered.

7. Since most of the discussion at this meeting was devoted to security problems, Mr. Beach requested each agency representative to obtain from their Security people the answers to two specific questions for discussion at the next meeting. These questions are: (1) Would the Civil Service Commission investigation and clearance of personnel to work on classified printing be sufficient or would the Agency require additional clearance? (2) Should classified printing be done on a centralized or decentralized basis? This means in Headquarters or in the field. In getting our answers from Security, I think we should also consider this to mean decentralized to the agencies concerned or centralized in GPO. Also to be considered is whether or not the Agency would permit its work to be done in such a set-up as GPO is developing, that is a secure plant within a

a nonsecure plant. It should be noted that we are not directly concerned with the developments concerning the main GPO plant as we do not have classified work done there. We would, however, be very much concerned if there were a move made to require us to have classified work done there. I shall be alert to this situation during these discussions.

8. Mr. Beach invited the Agency representatives to bring security people to the next meeting if they so desired. The next meeting is to be held 19 October 1954 at 10:30 A.M.

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